



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

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INMATE TRANSFERS TO MISSISSPPI WILL RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AND SAVE COSTS

HONOLULU—The State of Hawaii transferred its first 150 inmates yesterday from the Florence Correctional Center in Arizona to the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in Mississippi under a new agreement with the Corrections Corporation of America that is designed to save costs and relieve overcrowding.

"This new agreement will result in a major reduction in costs of over a million dollars a year," said Department of Public Safety Director John Peyton. "We can also send maximum custody inmates to the Mainland, which we were not able to do under the old agreement. That will help to reduce overcrowding at the Halawa Correctional Facility."

Hawaii pays approximately \$52 per day per inmate at contracted facilities in Arizona and Oklahoma. Under the terms of a new contract signed last week, the cost to house inmates in Mississippi is approximately \$43 dollars per inmate per day. The cost reduction will not result in a reduction of inmate services.

"When the transition is complete we expect to have over 600 inmates in Mississippi by the year 2005, Peyton added.

The Legislature provided additional moneys this session to increase the amount of beds in contracted Mainland facilities from 1,300 to 1,500 beds.

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